(d) Surprise checks are conducted by IGL through their consultant M/s Mecon and strict action taken against the individuals involved in the supply of unmetered gas. Also, the matter has been taken up with the supplier of the dispensers for providing additional provisions in the dispensers.

Financial Performance of IOCL, BPCL and HPCL.

2998. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum's quarterly results show down turn in their profits for the quarter ended September, 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) in what manner Government plan to assist these oil majors to remain profitable units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corproation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corproation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporaiton Limited have reported shortfall in their net profits in the quarter ending September 2001 during the current financial year compared to the corresponding period of previous year.

This shortfall has been mainly due to factors such as lower refining margins, fall in demand of petroleum products etc.

Government have been taking a number of measures to assist these oil PSUs to remain profitable. Measures taken in this direction, *inter alia,* include the following:—

(i) Review of their performances periodically.

(ii) Review of ongoing projects periodically.

(iii) Constantly emphasizing the need for various measures to be taken by oil PSUs to improve their productivity and quality of products and have higher value realisation.

(iv) Constantly emphasizing the need for various cost control

measures, reduce input and borrowing costs, take up modernization and technology upgradation projects etc.

Production of Solvent oil

†2999 SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the production of solvent oil in the country and the quantity sold by the oil companies alongwith the rate and the state-wise allocation during the last three years;

(b) the quantity of solvent imported by the oil companies and the private parties alongwith the prices (CIF value) during the last three years, year-wise, and its source with the rate of import duty; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that solvent oil have become a source of mixing in petrol; if so, the steps taken to discourage the mixing of solvent in petrol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Solvent Oil is not a controlled product and State-wise allocation is not made. Information about production/import of Solvent Oil and its sales during the last 3 years is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Solvents could be used for the adulteration of petrol. In order to prevent the misuse of solvents for adulteration of petrol and diesel, Govt. have issued the Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobiles) Order, 2000. In case a retail outlet dealer is found to be indulging in adulteration of petrol and diesel with solvents, action is taken against such retail outlet dealer under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreement.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.